

ADMINISTRATIVE
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16 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Don Appell, Staff Member of the
House Committee on Un-American Activities

1. On Friday, 6 March 1964, Mr. Don Appell of HCUA, and I happened to meet in the hall of the House Office Building. Mr. Appell immediately made a rather sarcastic comment to the effect that he had a feeling the Agency was going to be "embarrassed by that Pole." I passed this remark off lightly and Mr. Appell then said he was seriously considering running for Congress from Maryland. He said if he did run and if he were elected, he would devote every ounce of his energy toward seeing that the CIA was completely broken up. Knowing Mr. Appell quite well, I jokingly asked him what was eating him now. He immediately launched into a tirade claiming that CIA was the only agency in Government that he had difficulty in dealing with. He said the Agency apparently felt that it could refuse to do anything and get away with it because of the special authorities. It developed that he was still burning from an incident when the Committee had asked for an OSS personnel folder and, according to him been denied access to the folder. (Mr. Appell was probably referring to his request for the OSS file on [redacted] on 11 December 1963.)

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2. Mr. Appell said the Committee could go anywhere--he specifically mentioned the Department of Defense, NSA and the State Department--and look into the entire personnel folder on any case they wished, but they could not do this with CIA. I made reference to the security factors involved and reminded Appell of the Director's authorities and the mandates placed upon him in the National Security Act and the CIA Act with respect to security generally and personnel specifically. I told him that aside from this, I considered an official

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personnel folder to be a privileged document not open to inspection by anyone who did not have an official interest on some specific point. I told him that in matters of this sort, we attempted to cooperate with the Congress by summarizing pertinent information in a personnel folder but, of course, Appell would have none of this. He again referred to the fact that the other departments and agencies whom he had mentioned did not take this view. I told him I was not in a position to comment on the policy of other departments but did ask how he could be so certain that he had seen every document which had been in the personnel folder prior to his request. This unsettled him momentarily but he responded by saying he knew enough about a personnel folder to be able to tell whether it was complete or not. I again said the policy of other departments was not my concern and restated my view with regard to the privileged character of certain material in the personnel folder. I referred specifically to certain medical data and documents in the personnel folder which relate to claims under the Federal Employees Compensation Act. Appell attempted to distinguish these documents from the folder itself, without much success.

3. Appell went back to his opinion of the Agency and said that anytime he had an opportunity to cut the Agency's throat, he would certainly do so. His specific words were that he made no bones about his animosity toward the Agency. I told Appell that obviously I disagreed with his arguments but that he was certainly entitled to his opinion. At this juncture, Frank McNamara, Staff Director of HCUA, arrived on the scene. He chatted briefly then he and Appell left for the day.



Assistant Legislative Counsel

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